Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155141 ORIGIN HA-05

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: BOAT REFUGEES LANDED BY NORWEGIAN AND GREEK SHIPS

IN JAPAN.

HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR

REF: A. TOKYO 9491 (NOTAL), B. TOKYO 10096 (NOTAL), C. STATE 152208, D. BANGKOK 7298 (NOTAL).

- 1. REF A REQUESTED DEPT ADVICE AS TO WHETHER US WOULD CONSIDER INELIGIBLE THOSE REFUGEES LANDED IN JAPAN BY GREEK AND NORWEGIAN SHIPS FOR WHOM GREECE AND NORWAY HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES TO GOJ THAT THEY WOULD ADMIT ALL NOT ACCEPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. REF B WAS FOLLOWUP MESSAGE REPORTING JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD SUCH REFUGEES.
- 2. AS EXPLAINED REF C, UNDER NEW 25,000 INDOCHINESE PAROLE PROGRAM, US WILL ACCEPT, WITHIN NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS, CLOSE RELATIVES OF PERSONS IN US AND FORMER USG EMPLOYEES. US WILL ALSO ACCEPT OTHER REFUGEES PREVIOUSLY CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE US WHO ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY A THIRD COUNTRY. UNDER THIS POLICY, WE CONSIDER GREEK AND NORWEGIAN GUARANTEES TO JAPAN AS TANTAMOUNT TO THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES. THERE-

FORE, UNDER NEW PROGRAM US WILL ONLY CONSIDER CATEGORY I AND II REFUGEES LANDED BY FOREIGN OWNED VESSELS IN JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE.

3. USG WISHES TO ENCOURAGE THE PRACTICE OF OCEANGOING VESSELS' RESCUING REFUGEES FROM BOATS IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS; BUT US ALSO DESIRES CONTINUATION OF RECEPTIV-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITY TO REFUGEES REACHING FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES IN SMALL CRAFT DIRECTLY, AND INTENDS TO ACCEPT AS MANY SUCH REFU-GEES AS POSSIBLE. THE HIGH ESCAPE RATE NOW PREVAILING, THE NUMERICAL LIMITS OF THE NEW PAROLE (12,500) FOR BOAT REFUGEES, THE OBLIGATION TO TAKE I AND II CASES BEFORE CATEGORIES III AND IV AND THE PRIORITY WHICH MUST BE GIVEN TO REFUGEES ASSISTED BY US REGISTERED OR OWNED SHIPS - ALL THESE FACTORS CONSTRAIN ABILITY OF US TO STEP FORWARD WITH ADVANCE GUARANTEES FOR REFUGEES ON FOREIGN OWNED SHIPS. THEREFORE GUARANTEES OF RESETTLEMENT IN US WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR REFUGEES ON FOREIGN OWNED SHIPS IN ADVANCE OF CONOFF/REFOFF/INS INTERVIEW FOR ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIBILITY; AND DETERMINATION OF ADMISSIBILITY WILL BE CONDITIONAL PENDING VISAS FALCON NAMECHECK CLEARANCE AND VERIFICIATION OF CLAIMS TO ELIGIBILITY. NO ASSURANCES SHOULD BE GIVEN OF COMPLETION OF PROCESSING, INCLUDING DEPARTURE TO US ON ADVANCED TIMETABLE, WHICH WOULD PLACE REFUGEES FROM FOREIGN OWNED SHIPS AHEAD OF OTHERS WITHIN THE SAME CATEGORIES WHO ARE ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM WHERE THE FOREIGN OWNED SHIP IS SEEKING TO DEBARK REFUGEES. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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